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TO: Intelligence Community Staff  
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SUBJECT: Abstract of Information Provided to Select Committees

1. HOW PROVIDED (check appropriate term. If a document was made available  
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3. TO WHOM PROVIDED (check appropriate term; add specific names if appropriate)

SSC

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HSC

4. IDENTIFICATION (provide descriptive data for documents; give name or identification number of briefer,  
interviewee, testifier and subject)

George A. Carver, Jr., D/DCI/NIO

5. IN RESPONSE TO (list date and item number if in response to formal request, other-  
wise state verbal request of (name), initiative, subpoena, etc.)6. CLASSIFICATION OF  
INFORMATION (enter  
U, C, S, TS or  
Codeword)7. KEY WORDS (enter the appropriate key words from the list provided separately; if key words not listed are  
used underline for emphasis)Carver's testimony before HSC on 3 Dec 75 ref 11 Oct ltr to DOD  
and 13 Oct 67 ltr to Goulding of DOD.

8. SUMMARY (see reverse side before completing this item)

- Type or print clearly in ink.
- Indicate classification of the abstract top and bottom.
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- "FROM" entry should clearly identify the organization providing the information.
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SPECIFIC ITEM NO. 8. SUMMARY - enter brief narrative statement describing substance of information and showing relationship to Intelligence Community matters if appropriate. Any feedback or evidence of investigatory interests should be noted. Commitments made to supply additional information should be noted. Additionally, certain administrative information may be entered here, e.g., restrictions on review of a document, if document was paraphrased, whether interviewee is current or former employee, etc. If actual document or transcript is provided, that fact should be noted and no summary is required. Additional pages may be attached if necessary.



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Select Committee on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

REVIEW STAFF

75-3639

Donald P. Gregg  
Review Staff  
Central Intelligence Agency

December 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Gregg,

On page 4651 of the uncorrected version of Mr. George Carver's testimony before this Committee on December 3, 1975, he makes reference to an 11 October letter to the Department of Defense. Could you please furnish a copy of that letter for the Committee files?

On page 4652 of the same testimony, Mr. Carver mentions a memorandum he wrote on the 13 of October 1967 to Mr. Goulding of the Department of Defense. Could you likewise furnish that document for the Committee files?

On page 4673 of the same transcript, there is a reference to a briefing paper. Could you please furnish that paper for the Committee files?

Additionally, we would like to request any and all materials prepared by, or used by, Mr. Carver in his meetings with the Senior Advisory Group, and subsequently with the President, on March 25 and 26, 1968. Likewise we would like to request any and all memoranda of conversation drafted by Mr. Carver pursuant to his discussions on those two days.

Yours sincerely,

*P. Vance Hyndman*  
P. Vance Hyndman  
for the Committee

Dec 11 10 26 AM '75

1 set to bed, and I think everybody who ever worked on Order of  
2 Battle or estimated enemy strength knew that we were going to  
3 be changing our numbers consistently and I thought it was bad  
4 policy to come out with a set of numbers that looked as though  
5 they had been written in cement.

6 Mr. Carver. On 11 October 1967 we took specific exception  
7 to that briefing in the letter we sent to the Department of  
8 Defense.

9 Mr. Kasten. May I ask unanimous consent to use my next  
10 time period at this time?

11 Mr. Dallums. Without objection. The gentleman is  
12 recognized for five minutes.

13 Mr. Kasten. Go ahead.

14 Mr. Carver. On 11 October they sent the draft of that  
15 briefing over to the Agency for comment. We were talking  
16 again, as Mr. Walsh said, about the press briefing that MACV  
17 proposed to give. We are not talking about the estimate. We  
18 are not talking about the results of the Saigon conference.

19 Mr. Kasten. If I may interrupt for just a moment,  
20 Mr. Adams, referring in these comments to what he called the  
21 draft briefing, at the beginning of the paragraph that I  
22 quoted from, began, "The draft briefing was so blatantly mis-  
23 leading that it made some CIA officials question the wisdom"  
24 et cetera, et cetera.

25 I think we are referring to the same thing, but what you  
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are saying is the 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000500100004-7  
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1 Mr. Carver. On the 13th of October I sent Mr. Goulding,  
2 who was then Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs,  
3 a memorandum -- I was at that time Mr. Helms' Special Assistant  
4 for Vietnamese Affairs -- on the proposed press briefing,  
5 taking exception to saying we have reviewed it and we have  
6 serious substantive and procedural problems with it and cannot  
7 support it or concur in its use.  
8

9 Then I went on for three pages explaining why.

10 Mr. Kasten. The fact is you pointed out your objections  
11 to the briefing that was about to take place or at least there  
12 were some questions as to the numbers but you believe you took  
13 a position.

14 Mr. Carver. That is right. Mr. Helms was not responsible  
15 for the briefing given by the MACV PIO.

16 Mr. Kasten. Who was responsible for that briefing?

17 Mr. Walsh. Mr. Kasten, I might add a footnote to what  
18 George has said because even though we wrote that memorandum  
19 to Phil Golding, we had had some influence on what the final  
20 draft of the briefing was like when it was given, I believe,  
21 in November and then it was much more in accordance with the  
22 numbers that were in the estimate.

23 We still had not associated ourselves with it.

24 Mr. Kasten. In another part of the Adams testimony he  
25 referred to an article on November 24 and goes back to a  
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1 strengths in Vietnam. We also did our best to call attention  
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2 to areas where the evidence was spongy and we had to either  
3 use ranges or any figures were liable to be misleading. We  
4 were not infallible but we certainly tried to be as candid and  
5 accurate as we could be.

6 Mr. McClory. Were you surprised when President Johnson  
7 announced that he would not seek reelection?

8 Mr. Carver. Yes, sir, I was.

9 Mr. McClory. That did occur -- what? About ten days  
10 after this briefing paper was handed to the President?

11 Mr. Carver. It occurred very close to it.

12 What actually happened was President Johnson convened a  
13 group of advisers known colloquially as the Wise Men. I was  
14 one of the officers called upon to brief him on the Tet  
15 Offensive, the others being Mr. Habib and General DePuy. He  
16 was somewhat taken back by their recommendations. He had me  
17 down in the Cabinet Room for two hours to hear the briefing I  
18 had given them.

19 Soon thereafter he stepped down, but I don't think there  
20 was any connection between the two.

21 Mr. McClory. Just coincidence.

22 Mr. Carver. That is right.

23 Mr. McClory. I yield the balance of my time to my  
24 colleague, Mr. Treen.

25 Mr. Treen. Thank you, Mr. McClory.